

Beetle Update

INSIDE:

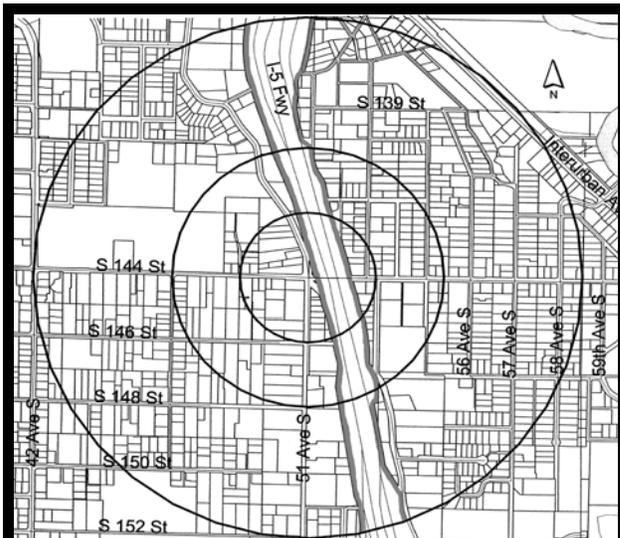
| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Eradication Activities | 1 |
| Tree Replacement | 2 |
| Tree Injection | 2 |
| Tree Survey | 2 |
| Chipper Days | 2 |
| Environmental Review | 3 |
| Tree Removal Q&As | 3 |
| How to Reach Us | 4 |

To Keep Tukwila Residents Informed on the Citrus Longhorned Beetle Project

We are continuing our efforts to stop the Citrus Longhorned Beetle from getting established in Washington and killing our trees. We are moving forward with the eradication actions and want to keep you up-to-date on our progress. This newsletter has answers to some of your frequently asked questions. We will continue to communicate with you through personal visits, our Web site, our toll-free hotline, open houses and newsletters.

Goal: SAVE OUR TREES

| Status | Action | Purpose |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Scheduled July 2002 | Tree Removal | Eradicate the beetle (kill beetle larvae) |
| Scheduled 2002-2007 | Tree Replacement | Mitigate effects of tree removal |
| Proposed 2002-2003 | Proposed Tree Injection | Slow the spread of beetles (kill adult beetles) |
| In Place since November | Quarantine | Prevent the artificial spread of beetles |
| Ongoing since February 2002 | Survey | Look for signs of beetles and beetle damage |



Possible Action Areas

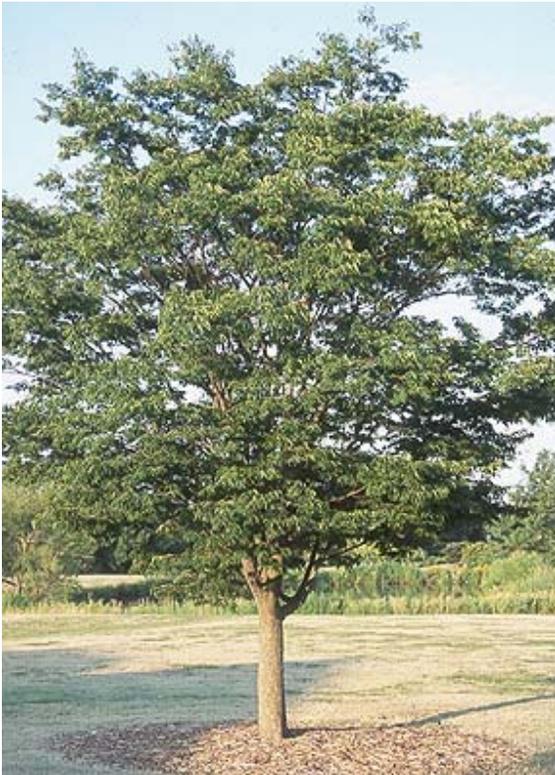
Inner Circle—Host Tree Removal & Chipping (up to 1/8 mile radius)
Middle Ring—Tree Injection (up to 1/4 mile radius)

Activities Continue to Combat the Citrus Longhorned Beetle

Our goal is to protect Washington’s trees and environment with the least impact on the Tukwila community. We need your cooperation to ensure that the beetle does not get established in Tukwila and then spread to other areas.

The eradication actions affect you directly. To minimize the impact on you and your neighborhood, we have developed an integrated program that includes tree removal, tree injection and tree replacement and replanting. There will be no out-of-pocket cost to any property owner.

The national Science Advisory Panel convened last fall to study the beetle infestation in Tukwila concluded in part: “There is a ‘strong likelihood’ the citrus longhorned beetle will become permanently established here if effective action isn’t taken soon.” Since the beetle discovery, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been consulting with scientists, researching options, surveying the area, communicating with residents, developing an eradication program, documenting environmental impacts, and securing funding and partnerships for tree replacement.



Japanese Zelkova is one of the many deciduous trees in the tree replacement program.

Tree Replacement Program

We are developing a program to replace trees that are removed, with special attention to those removed from yards, gardens, and environmentally sensitive areas. In addition to taking your suggestions, we have partnered with the forestry and nursery industries. The Washington Forest Protection Association, U.S. Forest Service, and the Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association (WSNLA) are among the groups involved in the program. To date, we have earmarked \$100,000 in federal grant money for tree replacement. In addition, 700 trees, consisting of 500 Douglas firs and 200 western red cedars, have been donated to the tree-replacement effort.

A voucher system is being developed that will provide maximum flexibility to property owners in deciding what kind of vegetation would replace removed trees. The value of the voucher will be based on the number of trees being removed as determined through individual site visits with each property owner. Vouchers will be issued by WSNLA and will be redeemable during the next five years at any participating nursery in King and Pierce counties.

The voucher could be used immediately for any vegetation that is not on the host tree list (such as conifers and a variety of non-host trees and shrubs) and planting costs. If the area is deemed beetle-free and the quarantine is lifted within the five-year expiration date, the vouchers could be used for host trees, such as maple and apple trees. Please visit our Web site to see a list and photos of replacement vegetation available through the voucher system.

Tree Injection

Tree injection is being considered and could take place this summer or Spring 2003, depending on tree physiology. The insecticide *imidacloprid* will be applied directly into a tree or its root zone to slow the spread of any beetles that emerge outside of the 1/8-mile tree removal area. The goal is to kill adult beetles when they feed on the twigs. Prior to the injection, staff will meet with residents to discuss any questions or concerns. A contractor specializing in tree injection will conduct the work and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will monitor the project. Trees in the injection area may be removed if trees are hazardous, are too small to safely inject (under 2" diameter), or if a homeowner prefers removal to injection. The exposure from the treatment is low and will be closely monitored. Most of the tree injection will be conducted weekdays during daylight hours and may be repeated annually. More information about tree injection is available on our Web site.

Tree Survey and Quarantine

Eight Trees Removed Across From Nursery

On June 12 and 13, WSDA staff cut down, inspected, and chipped eight trees across from the nursery where the beetles escaped. The small group of trees was targeted because a Citrus Longhorned Beetle was seen flying into the trees last August. Although we did not know if we would find any evidence, those trees were a logical place to start. WSDA entomologists were hoping to find tunnels created by beetle larvae feeding inside the trees. If so, they would learn more about the beetle's behavior. Finding out whether the larvae were feeding low in the trunks or up high on branches would help determine if we should focus our tree survey program on ground or on tree climbing survey work. A variety of species made up of alder, maple, and cherry was chosen to help determine the beetle's host tree preference. No beetle evidence was found but this was not surprising. The beetle seen flying into the wooded area could have been male or, if female, could have moved on to other trees before laying any eggs.

Chipper Days

3rd Saturday of each month

We help you dispose of plant materials that can't be moved from the quarantine area.

If you are unable to bring your materials to Chipper Days, call us and we'll pick them up!

Next Chipper Day is July 20

Environmental Documentation Prepared

WSDA completed an **Environmental Checklist** under SEPA (the State Environmental Policy Act) at the end of May and issued a determination of significant impact on June 7, 2002. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture completed an **Environmental Assessment** of the project under NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act). These documents are available on our Web site. The environmental review process helped identify the significant environmental impacts to the Tukwila site that could result from the project. We are developing ways to mitigate the impacts and have requested a declaration of emergency from the Governor so as to proceed with the project.

Top 10 Tree Removal Questions

- 1. Is it true that you are proposing to remove 1,000 trees?**
 Yes. Based on the work of WSDA survey crews, we estimate there are approximately 1,000 "significant" trees targeted for removal. These include about 535 trees in yards and gardens of private properties, 85 trees on Department of Transportation property along I-5, and about 350 trees that are 4" in diameter or larger in greenbelts or watershed areas (we do not have a good count of the smaller diameter trees in the greenbelt/watershed areas). The tree removal effort involves 51 properties owned by 46 property owners.
- 2. Why are you proposing tree removal up to 1/8th mile?**
 Based on scientific studies conducted on the Asian Longhorned Beetle, there is a 94% probability that beetle larvae are within 1/8th mile of the introduction site. To have a 99.7% probability of eradication, host trees would need to be removed up to a 3/8 mile-radius from the introduction site. The 1/8-mile tree removal area is proposed in order to balance the goal of making sure the beetle does not get established in Washington with the goal of having the least impact on the Tukwila community.
- 3. Where is the center of the 1/8th mile radius?**
 For tree removal, the exact location at the nursery where the beetles escaped will be used as the center point. A Global Positioning System (GPS) will be used to determine which trees are within 1/8th mile.
- 4. Are the beetles capable of flying across I-5?**
 Longhorned Beetles are strong flyers and have been recorded flying distances ten times the width of I-5. The priority for tree removal is on the west side of the freeway closest to the nursery, but trees on the east side of I-5 are also considered potential landing (and egg-laying) sites for the beetle.
- 5. Which trees are you planning to remove?**
 Tree removal will be based on the quarantine host tree list which is available on our Web site. Evergreen (conifer) trees will not be removed, but most species of hardwood trees will need to be removed including maple, alder, willow, and fruit trees.
- 6. Are you planning to remove roses and azaleas?**
 No. We are not planning to remove raspberries, blackberries, azaleas, rhododendrons, or roses at this time. We may need to cut some blackberry thickets if they are blocking access to host trees.
- 7. What about the trees that we just planted?**
 They may not need to be removed. The adult beetles that escaped from the nursery last summer probably lived two to three months. During that time, each mated female beetle could have laid up to 200 eggs and it is these offspring that we are concerned with. Trees that were purchased and planted after November 1, 2001 would not be infested and will not be removed. Proof of purchase date for newly planted trees may be requested.
- 8. Will you be removing tree stumps?**
 When possible, we plan to remove stumps. We will meet with each property owner to determine stump removal on a case-by-case basis. We may leave and grind stumps in locations where removal would disrupt a homeowner's yard and in environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes.
- 9. Why not delay tree cutting for two to four months?**
 Tree removal needs to occur before adult beetles emerge and have a chance to mate and lay eggs. We have the best chance of preventing an infestation from becoming established by eliminating potentially infested trees before any beetles emerge from the inside the trees and get into the environment. If we wait until we see beetle emergence holes to confirm that a tree is infested, it will be too late. If the beetle spreads, it will mean larger quarantine and larger tree removal areas.
- 10. How and when will you start cutting trees?**
 The goal is to remove trees between late June and the end of July. WSDA staff plans to meet with property owners later this month to discuss tree removal on a yard-by-yard basis. WSDA staff, arborists, and specialists who are trained and experienced in tree removal will conduct the tree removal. The contractors will be monitored to make sure the trees are removed in a manner that is least likely to cause damage and that trees adjacent to houses are dismantled piece by piece.

Attention Residents:

Enclosed is information on tree removal, tree replacement and more!

Last August three Citrus Longhorned Beetles were captured in Tukwila including a mated female ready to lay up to 200 eggs. Another beetle was seen flying out of the nursery to trees across the street and evidence was found that another four beetles escaped into the environment. The introduction is the first and only time this beetle has been caught out-of-doors in the United States. The beetles hitched a ride inside a shipment of 369 bonsai maple trees from Korea. The larvae had been living and feeding inside the trees for several months until they emerged as adult beetles ready to feed and mate.

The Citrus Longhorned Beetle kills many species of hardwood trees and would cause huge economic and environmental impacts if it were to get established here.



Citrus Longhorned Beetle (not to scale)

How To Reach Us

Visit our Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/CitrusLHBeetle.htm>

Send your questions to us via e-mail at clhb@agr.wa.gov

Call our toll-free hotline at (800) 443-6684

Stop by our information table at Chipper Days every 3rd Saturday at Foster High School

Look for us at community events including *Tukwila Days* on July 13



Citrus Longhorned Beetle Project

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